



EXPLORING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN CHILD EDUCATION: A CASE STUDY OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

In this research we will get an idea about the present condition of child education in our country India. It highlights what are the main problems, issues that are present in India. We have taken reviews from existing data, government reports; which will be focussing on the situation child education seeing the equality, access, equity that is present in today's education. What in this we are finding is that although we have made a fair amount of progress in this area but there are still some problems or issues which are prevalent and they must be taken care of those include issues like teachers are not as qualified as they should be or they are inexperienced etc. then the lack of inclusion of poor education framework also looking at the resources which are not enough.

Furthermore, an idea about the New Education Policy (NEP) is also given in this paper. There are other initiatives which the government took to address the challenges mentioned like the Right to Education Act, The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-May Meals. This research includes the analytical impacts of the initiatives taken and the areas where there is a need for certain improvements. Concluding this paper, we have highlighted the future aspects of child education, ensuring the quality for all the children irrespective of their class, caste etc.

KEYWORDS: Child Education, Indian Education System, Critical Thinking, New Education Policy

INTRODUCTION

Education is not about how well you can read and write; it's about how well you can interact with and comprehend the outside world. A quality education not only transmits learning but also widens your horizons, improves your viewpoint, and empowers you to make your own decisions. People are extremely aware of social inequalities today and feel comfortable discussing them. This can be due to the expanded educational opportunities available globally, which has led to a more accepting and tolerant culture. Education is thus a component of human evolution. Creativity and innovation are other areas where education is crucial. Education supports innovative thinking and trying out novel concepts. It also discusses how the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which would be implemented in this year 2023 is the only third education reform which would be happening in our country. The previous two education reforms which happened were in the years 1968 and 1986. It is important to know about the change in the education system which will be happening this year.

Current state of children's education in India

The social and educational systems in India tend to be highly restrictive towards children and absolutely overlook the way they feel, ambitions, and desired goals. Children are forced to learn as early as age 3. Non-performers are criticized and disliked by society and parents together.

In comparison to other Asian nations like China, India has one of the lowest public investment rates on education per student, in accordance with UNESCO data. Most schools provide a one-dimensional education which places too much importance on grades. This is further complicated by the shortage of qualified educators at all levels. The education system in India is lacking in effective teachers. Although there are some extraordinary teachers, especially in government schools, the level of instruction falls short of expectations.

India behind other nations in the BRICS, which have literacy rates above 90%, with a rate of approximately 77%. Better student-teacher ratios can be observed in all these countries. India as a result struggles with both poor teacher quality and an inferior aggregate teacher population than other countries that give performances better in the domain of education.

In accordance with data from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, less than half of the students who are enrolled in primary school continue to the upper primary level. Only 58% of children in classes three to five could read material that was suitable for class 1. Less than half (47%) were able to perform the basic two-digit subtraction.

Just over fifty percent of children in classes five to eight can take advantage of a calendar. Even the most fundamental abilities were not found to be up to par; around two-thirds of the class four kids were incapable to measure the length of a pencil by using a ruler.

Multiple research projects have proven that a nation's population's level of education and well-being is the authentic indicator of its economic development.

The quality of primary education in India has been failing to receive sufficient attention, despite the nation's rapid economic development over the previous three decades.

Issues with the Education System in India

With the goal to provide students, who are the future of the country, without a better education, the Indian Education System has several types of shortcomings that must be addressed. even though there have already been numerous improvements made to the Indian educational system over the years, there are still many shortcomings and problems that need to be addressed.

Education expenditures; additional funding requirements to be put back for the growth of the educational system in India. Several developments have been made in this direction over the past few years, and if these continue to grow upward India may soon be capable to get past its current issues. India needs to go along with the UN's gross enrolment pattern in addition. Maximizing students' capacities to the best is essential given that the world now needs innovative thinkers, and the government ought to encourage academics to do that. Of particular importance in government schools, better infrastructure is required to be given. Government must take measures in order to provide the necessary resources in government schools and rural areas as they are currently concentrating on digital education.

PPPs whose structures are well-designed could create innovative educational institutions in India. This means the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model must have to be addressed.

The NEP 2020 is also a bit problematic because of the changes it will be bringing in the education system they are a bit haphazardly structured there implementation itself is a bit problematic when we put the points into practicality.

In comparison to the number of teachers and faculty members easily accessible, there are significantly more students wanting an excellent education. As a result, qualified educators must be recruited to shape the country's future.

Challenges Faced by Children Education in India

The Government has put up efforts that provide free and compulsory education for all children whose age are between 6 to 14 which comes under the Right to Education Act, but there are still some challenges that are present in the Indian education system. Some of them are as follows:

Education Access: We can see even today there are children in some parts of India who still lack access to education either because they are living in that part of country where there are still no schools available and then they cannot go to school because of this, this is not it some children cannot afford the fees of the school and they cannot go because of that which further increases the problem.

Poor Quality: Now in some areas where schools are present, we see the quality is lacking in education. Even the basic facilities like proper classrooms, wash-

rooms, clean drinking water etc. Sometimes the teaching quality is also not up to the mark with teachers not having the proper qualifications and training.

Inequality based on gender: Another challenge which the children are facing is the gender inequality. The government we are aware is doing its best to promote education for all equally but still in some parts of the country girls are not allowed to go to schools and they are deprived of education either because of their culture or the thinking of people there and if they go to school then they face not very comfortable environment around them.

Poverty: Due to poverty which we have in India mostly in rural areas we see that often children have to support their families financially and due to this they are not able to attend the schools and creates another issue of child labour in India.

Initiatives Taken by the Government

The challenges mentioned above despite those, the government from its side has taken several measures which may help in improving the system of education in our country. Some of those initiatives are as passed in 2009, The Right to Education Act it makes the education a fundamental right for the children aging from 6-14. This act makes the government provide compulsory and free education to children between this age group.

There is another program according to which the children of the country have universal access to the education it ensures the better quality of education and making sure that every child has access to that the programme is called Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Then we are aware that in the government schools there are mid-day meals given to the children which are for free making sure that poor children they get the nutritious food which is required for their development and growth.

The national scholarship scheme is another initiative taken by government that gives scholarship to the children who are from the poor families and those who cannot afford to give the fees.

Initiatives for girls' education have also been taken making sure that the girls have also proper access to education and there is no gender gap. They are for example; National Programme for girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL), The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV).

The way forward

Parents, teachers, and government officials must reconsider a lot of the information they already have before they can establish the most effective system of education in India.

It is extremely important for parents that they understand how constantly changing education and the learning process are. The idea of online education has been gaining recognition with the support of technology, and the traditional form of education as an entire field is also developing.

The quality and access to the education needs to be improved they can be done by building schools, providing the necessities such as clean toilets, a safe and sound environment which is suitable for learning, safe drinking water.

Government can also support the families who cannot afford the fees by providing them with financial aids. The curriculum of the school should be modified regularly keeping in mind the needs and abilities of the students also having a better infrastructure.

Giving them more options to choose from in the subjects also keeping the talent wise courses which the students can take up and they can train and excel more in their areas and making sure every child gets educated and be special in something and design education policy keeping all those things in mind.